

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05
MMO-04 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 /108 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/AFN - MS. WEISLOGEL
EUR/WE-MS SMITH
EUR/P-MR SEIDNER

-----131843Z 032655 /47

O 131646Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 007804

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 12
REF: PARIS 38266
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
JANUARY 12, 1977:

Q. CAN I ASK YOU AT LEAST A COUPLE OR THREE QUESTIONS ON
ABU DAOUD? LET ME BEGIN BY ASKING YOU -- I SAW YOUR STATE-
MENT YESTERDAY AFTER THE FACT, BUT I AM MORE INTERESTED IN
BEFORE THE FACT.
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DID YOU, OR DID THE UNITED STATES GIVE ANY ADVICE TO THE
FRENCH, INFORMALLY OR FORMALLY, AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THE
SITUATION?

A. NO.

Q. FRANCE AND GERMANY, WHICH CONTRIVED TO RELEASE DAOUD,
ARE PARTIES TO AN AGREEMENT, AN ANTI-TERRORIST AGREEMENT.
IN LIGHT OF DAOUD'S RELEASE, WHAT HOPE IS THERE THAT AGREE-
MENTS CAN SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO TERRORISM?

A. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ANSWER A QUESTION LIKE THAT IN THE
ABSTRACT. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, OR COURTS, EXPLAINED
WHY THEY RELEASED ABU DAOUD. WE STATED YESTERDAY OUR
DISMAY. BUT HIS RELEASE IS NOT GOING TO CAUSE US TO STOP
OUR EFFORTS TO ASK THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, OR PUT
BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PROPOSALS AND TO URGE
COMPLIANCE WITH DEALING FIRMLY AND STERNLY WITH TERROR-
ISTS. AND THIS ONE INCIDENT IS NOT GOING TO CAUSE US TO
CHANGE THAT POSITION.

Q. HAVE YOU MADE ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT?

A. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF OUR POSITION. WE HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH THEM PRIVATELY.

Q. WHERE?

Q. IN PARIS?

A. I THINK IN WASHINGTON.

Q. BUT IT IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT BEFORE HIS RELEASE, THERE WAS NO COMMUNICATION WITH THE FRENCH ABOUT THIS.
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A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF, NO.

Q. ONCE HE WAS RELEASED, YOU CAME OUT WITH A STATEMENT DEPLORING OR DISMAYING?

A. WE WERE ASKED, I THINK, FOR OUR REACTION AT THE BRIEFING YESTERDAY, AND WE PROVIDED IT. AND I THINK THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED IN NEW YORK FOR HIS REACTION.

Q. IN LIGHT OF YOUR INTEREST IN TERRORISM AND YOUR OFTEN- STATED POSITION THAT TERRORISTS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN IN TO, I WONDER WHY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DIDN'T HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE FRENCH BEFOREHAND?

A. FIRST OF ALL, I THINK THAT THERE WAS -- THE MAN HAD BEEN APPREHENDED. THERE WAS A PROCESS OF EXTRADITION, AND THEN IT WAS A DECISION FOR THE FRENCH COURTS TO MAKE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES KNOW OUR VIEWS ON TERRORISM. AND THEY CERTAINLY HAD THE REQUEST FROM THE WEST GERMAN AND FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS. SO, THERE IS NOT ANY QUESTION IN ANYONE'S MIND AS TO WHAT OUR POSITION WAS.

Q. WHY SHOULD THERE HAVE BEEN NO QUESTION ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION?

A. I DO NOT THINK ANY COUNTRY OR GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD HAS TAKEN A MORE ACTIVE LEAD IN URGING, NOT ONLY ACTION INTERNATIONALLY AND MULTILATERALLY, BUT ACTION BY OTHER COUNTRIES AGAINST TERRORISM AND TERRORISTS. AND WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED THIS POSITION, AND WE HAVE NOT ONLY GIVEN OUR OWN INITIATIVES BUT WE HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, IN ITS PROPOSALS AGAINST TERRORISM.

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Q. BY THE WAY, IF I MAY BACK UP, I WANT TO BROADEN MY QUESTION -- NOT ONLY FRANCE BUT GERMANY, WHICH, BY ALL INDICATIONS, PLAYED A VERY LARGE ROLE IN ARRANGING FOR MR. DAOUD'S RELEASE. YOU HAD NOTHING TO SAY TO THE GERMANS EITHER IN ADVANCE?

A. NO.

Q. DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO THEM AFTER THE FACT? BECAUSE THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, THEY TOLD THE FRENCH THAT IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE EMBARRASSMENT TO HAVE MR. DAOUD RETURN TO GERMANY.

A. I HAVE NOT SEEN THAT STATEMENT. I WOULD WANT TO CHECK BUT IT WAS MY RECOLLECTION THAT THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT MADE A STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH WE MADE YESTERDAY ON HIS RELEASE --

A. I THINK THE SPOKESMAN DID THAT, BUT LET ME CHECK.

Q. THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER -- WHOSE NAME I WON'T TRY TO PRONOUNCE -- I UNDERSTAND SAID BACK ON THE 28TH THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE UNITED STATES WAS CHANGING ITS POSITION ON THE PALESTINIANS.

MR. VANCE, YESTERDAY, AT THE HEARING -- I KNOW YOU ARE NOT HIS SPOKESMAN -- BUT AT THE HEARING, HE SPOKE ABOUT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PLO.

I WONDER IF YOU COULD, FIRST, TELL US IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE. AND, SECONDLY, WHEN YOU TELL US THERE ISN'T, TELL US WHAT OUR POSITION IS ON THE PALESTINIANS THESE DAYS.

A. YOU HAVE ANTICIPATED MY ANSWER, BUT I WILL STATE IT ANYWAY. OUR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE PALESTINIAN

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ISSUE, AND THE PLO, REMAINS UNCHANGED.

YOUR SECOND QUESTION -- AS I THINK I HAVE REPLIED HERE MANY TIMES -- WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY SETTLEMENT, BUT WE WILL NOT RECOGNIZE, OR HAVE FORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE PLO SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST, AND DOES NOT ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.

Q. OKAY. WHAT ARE THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS?

A. THIS HAS BEEN EMBODIED IN A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS AT

THE UNITED NATIONS, AND ANY SETTLEMENT THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THERE THE VIEWS -- THIS MUST BE PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

SO, I AM NOT GOING TO ATTEMPT TO SPECIFY WHAT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS ARE, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS BY THE PARTIES.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE A PALESTINIAN STATE? AND IF SO, IN WHAT PART OF ISRAEL?

A. I THINK OUR POSITION ON THAT, BARRY, HAS BEEN THAT WE, IN SAYING THAT WE RECOGNIZE CERTAIN LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN INTERESTS -- AND THESE MUST BE HEARD AND DEALT WITH IN SOME WAY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS -- AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE SAID THAT WE HAVE NOT PREJUDGED WHAT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION SHOULD BE, SO LONG AS THAT SOLUTION RESPECTS THE RIGHT OF ALL EXISTING STATES IN THE AREA TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY. BUT I CANNOT BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT.

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Q. BOB, MAY I ASK, YOU SAID YOU WERE IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE FRENCH IN WASHINGTON. MAY I ASK YOU, AT WHICH LEVEL AND IF IT WAS WRITTEN?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THAT.

Q. MAY I ASK ON WHICH GROUND THE UNITED STATES MADE THIS COMMUNICATION WITH THE FRENCH?

A. I THINK THE GROUNDS WERE TO COMMUNICATE TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY THE REACTION WHICH WE HAVE STATED PUBLICLY.

Q. WHAT WAS THE SECRETARY'S WORD? WAS IT "OUTRAGEOUS?"

A. YES. I WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN HE SAID THAT, BUT THAT WAS THE QUOTE. A REPORTER, I THINK, ASKED HIM ON THE SIDEWALK THAT QUESTION.

Q. BOB, DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THE PALESTINIAN WAS RELEASED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL DECISIONS IN FRANCE OR POLITICAL PRESSURES BROUGHT UPON FRENCH LEADERS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY MORE THAN WE SAID YESTERDAY, THAT HE WAS RELEASED ON AN APPARENT LEGAL TECHNICALITY.

Q. BOB, I HEARD A LITTLE WHILE AGO THAT THE FRENCH HAVE

ANNOUNCED A BIG ARMS DEAL WITH ARAB COUNTRIES TODAY. DO YOU SEE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT AND RELEASING ABU DAOUD?

A. I WAS NOT AWARE OF THAT REPORT, AND, NO, I WOULD NOT, NECESSARILY.

Q. THE REPORT IS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO SELL 200 UNCLASSIFIED

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MIRAGES TO EGYPT INDEPENDENT OF ANY CONNECTION. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. NO. LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. BOB, I JUST NOTICED THAT BETWEEN THE TIME THE MOST RECENT STATE DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE BOOK WAS ISSUED AND THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF THE TELEPHONE BOOK, THAT THE MAN IN CHARGE OF DEALING WITH TERRORISM IN THE DEPARTMENT, CURRENTLY DOUGLAS HECK, WAS SHIFTED FROM BEING PART OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE TO BEING PART OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT'S OFFICE.

IS THIS A DOWNGRADING OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR TERRORISM, OR THE CONSIDERATION OF TERRORISM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF THAT CHANGE TO A LOWER CATEGORY OF OFFICE?

A. IT DOES NOT REFLECT ANY DOWNGRADING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE, BUT LET ME CHECK INTO THE RATIONALE FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE.

Q. BOB, DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE FACT THAT DAOUD-- COMING BACK TO DAOUD--THAT DAOUD WAS NOT ARRESTED WHEN HE

ARRIVED IN ALGIERS? AND WOULD EXPRESS DISMAY?

A. OUR POSITION IS THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE STERN ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS, REMAINS.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED?

A. I WILL JUST STAND ON WHAT I SAID.

Q. WELL I WON'T -- I MEAN -- IS THAT GOING TO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON YOUR RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA? UNCLASSIFIED

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A. WILL YOU RESTATE YOUR QUESTION?

Q. IS THAT FACT THAT DAOUD WAS NOT ARRESTED IN ALGIERS -- IS THAT GOING TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON YOUR POLICY AND YOUR RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

Q. A SIMILAR QUESTION, CONCERNING FRANCE:

WOULD YOU SAY, BOB, THAT THIS ABU DAOUD AFFAIR WOULD HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES?

A. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS PERFECTLY CLEAR ON THIS SPECIFIC ISSUE. BUT WE ALSO HAVE VERY CLOSE TIES WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AND COOPERATE WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO THAT.

Q. BOB, WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK YOUR STATEMENT HAS HAD?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT.

Q. WELL, WHAT IS THE POINT OF THIS STATEMENT?

A. SORRY?

Q. APART FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF IT?

A. WELL, I WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE IT AS A "PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT."

I THINK WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT THE WORLD, THE PUBLIC -- THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD AS WELL AS GOVERN-
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MENTS -- HAVE A VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR VIEW ON
ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. BOB, THE PROTEST -- THE DISMAY THAT WAS REGISTERED TODAY -- WAS IT TODAY? OR WAS IT YESTERDAY?

A. I AM NOT SURE.

Q. ALL RIGHT -- THAT WAS THE DISMAY. DID THE FRENCH SAY ANYTHING IN TURN, TO EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION, WHEN YOU ENTERED YOUR PROTESTS?

A. I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EXCHANGE.

Q. THANK YOU, SIR.

KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 384
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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